This is a unique reloading/information manual. It contains currently available data regarding loading information for this individual cartridge. This data is compiled from the leading U.S. Bullet and gunpowder manufacturers.

This manual is not intended to replace the many comprehensive, in-depth reloading manuals available from a host of publishers, but instead provide you with a quick and easy-to-use reference source which will enable you to compare loads, types of powders, bullets and shot charges for components you may have on hand.

Loadbooks USA, Inc., also offers the following cartridges in this series of unique One Book/One Caliber reloading manuals: .22 Hornet, .220 Swift, .222 Remington, .223 Remington, .22-250 Remington, .225 Winchester, .243 Winchester, .244/6mm Remington, 6.5x55 Swedish, .25-06 Remington, .250-3000 Savage, .270 Winchester, 7x57 Mauser, .7mm-08 Remington, .280 Remington, .284 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, 7.62x39mm, 7.62x54mm Russian, .30-30 Winchester, .303 British, .308 Winchester, .30-06 Springfield, .300 Winchester Magnum, .300 Weatherby Magnum, .300 Savage, 30/40 Krag, .300 & .375 H & H Magnum, .338 Winchester Magnum, 8mm Remington Magnum, 8mm/06 & .338/06, 8mm Mauser, .356 & .358 Winchester, .35 Whelen, .35 Remington & .350 Remington Magnum, .375 & .458 Winchester, .444 Marlin, 45-70 Government, .25 & .32 A.C.P., .32 H&R Magnum, .380 ACP, 9mm Luger, .38 Super, .38 Special, .357 Magnum, 10mm/.41 Auto, .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .44 Special, .45 ACP, .45 Colt, .454 Casull, and The Weatherby Magnums covering 10 different Weatherby calibers.

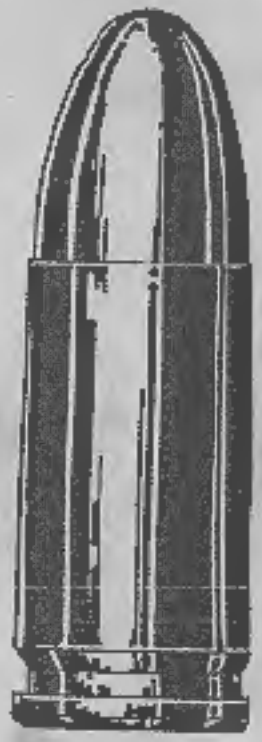
There's also two shotshell books for the 12 Gauge, and the 20/28 Gauge and .410 bore. Plus there's a large reloading manual covering 30 calibers for the Thompson/Center Contender single-shot pistol and the Remington XP-100 pistol.

Online Ordering http://www.loadbooks.com
Published by Loadbooks USA, Inc.
Printed in the United States

One Book / One Caliber

2000 EDITION

The Complete Reloading Manual for the 9mm Luger



Containing Unabridged Information from U.S. Bullet and Powder Makers

*Accurate * Alliant * Hodgdon * Hornady*
*IMR * Lyman * Nosler * RCBS * Scot*
*Sierra * Speer * Winchester and Others*

1,326 Proven & Tested Loads
52 Various Bullet Designs
42 Different Powders

RELOADING SAFETY RULES

Reloading is an enjoyable and rewarding hobby that is easily conducted with safety. But, like many other human endeavors, carelessness or negligence can make reloading hazardous.

The essence of reloading safety is proper handling and storage of primers and powder. By observing the following rules, the chance of hazardous occurrence becomes extremely remote.

Store powder and primers beyond the reach of children and away from heat and open flames. Do not smoke when reloading.

Keep no more powder than needed in an open container. Immediately return unused powder to its original factory container.

Don't use any powder unless its identity is positively known. Scrap all mixed powders and those of uncertain or unknown identity.

Do not store primers in bulk. To do so is to create a bomb! Bulk primers will mass detonate. Do not use primers when their identity is lost. Safely dispose of unknown types of primers.

Courtesy of Speer Reloading Manual Nr. 11

All loading data contained in this book is the result of testing by the various bullet and powder manufacturers. Under carefully controlled conditions and with the components and test equipment specified, this data proved safe in their tests. Since none of the companies, nor the publisher, listed herein has control over the components and equipment which may be used with this published information, no responsibility is implied or assumed for results obtained through its use.

Courtesy of Hornady Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Sierra Bullets cannot and does not accept any liability, either expressed or implied, for results of damage or injury arising from or alleged to have arisen from the use of the data in this manual.

Courtesy of Sierra Bullets

Follow loading recommendations exactly. Don't substitute components for those listed. Start loading with the minimum powder charges. Understand what you are doing and why it must be done in a specific way. Stay alert when reloading. Don't reload when distracted, disturbed or tired.

Courtesy of Nosler Bullets, Inc.

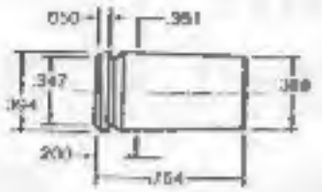
The Complete Reloading Manual for the 9mm Luger

The publisher is deeply indebted to the following companies for their permission to reprint their proprietary reloading information found in this manual.

Accurate Arms Company, Inc.
Blount, Inc.
Alliant Technologies
Hodgdon Powder Co., Inc.
Hornady Manufacturing Company
IMR Powder Company
Lyman Products Corporation
Nosler Bullets, Inc.
RCBS Bullets
Scot Powders
Sierra Bullets, L.P.
Speer Bullets
Winchester

Table of Contents
9mm Luger

Table of Contents
9mm Luger



9mm LUGER

PISTOL: S & W MODEL 39
BARREL: 4", 1 in 10" TWIST
CASE: HORNADY/FRONTIER
PRIMER: FEDERAL 100

BULLET DIAMETER: .355"
MAXIMUM C.O.L.: 1.160"
MAX. CASE LENGTH: .754"
CASE TRIM LENGTH: .744"

The 9mm Luger is the most widely chambered military pistol cartridge in the world. It has become extremely popular in the U.S. and is used by a large number of law enforcement agencies. Introduced in 1902 by Georg Luger in his Luger Pistol and dubbed the 9mm Parabellum, this cartridge was adopted by the German Armed Forces just six years later. The cartridge is also used extensively in submachine guns.

The 9mm Luger is economical and relatively easy to reload. With the ending of World War II, a great number of military surplus semi-autos were sold in the U.S., which also enhanced popularity of the round in this country. Today, every major U.S. manufacturer offers a firearm in this caliber. Many foreign producers offer fine firearms in the 9mm Luger. The U.S. armed services have adopted a Beretta pistol, the M9, as the official sidearm. The large number of firearms in 9mm prompted the need for commercial ammunition and reloading supplies. Hornady offers reloading dies and eight different bullets for the 9mm.

Powders that worked exceptionally well in our test weapon were Hercules Unique, Winchester 231, and AA#2. AA#2 produced the highest velocity of all the powders tested with the 90, 100, 115 and 124 grain bullets while AA#7 and Blue Dot gave the highest velocity with the 147 grain bullet. Velocity difference between 4" and 5" barrels were negligible. Note: When reloading for the 9mm, care must be taken that little or no crimp be used, since the 9mm headspaces on the mouth of the case.

90 GRAIN BULLETS:

SECTIONAL DENSITY: .102
DIAMETER: .355"

#35500 HP/XTP
Ballistic Coefficient — .088
C.O.L. — 1.080"

	VELOCITY				
POWDER	1150 fps	1200 fps	1250 fps	1300 fps	1350 fps
Red Dot	4.0 gr.	4.3 gr.	4.5 gr.		
IMR 7625	4.3 gr.	4.5 gr.			
700X	4.2 gr.	4.4 gr.	4.6 gr.		
WIN WSI	4.2 gr.	4.4 gr.	4.6 gr.	4.8 gr.	
Bullseye	4.4 gr.	4.7 gr.	5.0 gr.		
Pearl Scot	4.3 gr.	4.6 gr.	4.9 gr.	5.2 gr.	
Unique	4.9 gr.	5.1 gr.	5.3 gr.		
WIN 231	4.8 gr.	5.1 gr.	5.4 gr.	5.7 gr.	
AA #2	4.7 gr.	5.0 gr.	5.4 gr.	5.7 gr.	6.1 gr.
WIN WST	5.5 gr.	5.8 gr.			
AA #5	6.2 gr.	6.5 gr.	6.8 gr.	7.2 gr.	
HS-6	6.9 gr.	7.2 gr.	7.4 gr.	7.7 gr.	
AA #7	7.8 gr.	8.3 gr.	8.8 gr.	9.3 gr.	

Indicates maximum load - use with caution

100 GRAIN BULLETS:

SECTIONAL DENSITY:	.113
DIAMETER:	.355"

#3552 FMJ-RN
Ballistic Coefficient — .115
C.O.L. — 1.105"

	VELOCITY				
POWDER	1050 fps	1100 fps	1150 fps	1200 fps	1250 fps
Red Dot	3.8 gr.	4.0 gr.	4.2 gr.	4.4 gr.	
WIN WSL	3.9 gr.	4.1 gr.	4.3 gr.	4.5 gr.	
Pearl Scot	4.2 gr.	4.3 gr.	4.5 gr.	4.8 gr.	
Bullseye		4.3 gr.	4.6 gr.	4.9 gr.	5.2 gr.
AA #2		4.5 gr.	4.8 gr.	5.2 gr.	5.8 gr.
Unique	4.6 gr.	4.9 gr.	5.1 gr.	5.3 gr.	
WIN 231	4.3 gr.	4.6 gr.	5.0 gr.	5.3 gr.	
WIN WST	5.2 gr.	5.6 gr.	5.9 gr.	6.2 gr.	
AA #5	5.8 gr.	6.1 gr.	6.4 gr.	6.8 gr.	6.9 gr.
HS-6		6.6 gr.	6.9 gr.	7.2 gr.	7.5 gr.
AA #7	7.3 gr.	7.7 gr.	8.1 gr.	8.4 gr.	8.8 gr.

Indicates maximum load - use with caution

115 GRAIN BULLETS:

SECTIONAL DENSITY:	.130
DIAMETER:	.355"

#35540 HP/XTP
Ballistic Coefficient — .123
C.O.L — 1.050"

#3555 FMJ-RN
Ballistic Coefficient — .140
C.O.L — 1.105"

	VELOCITY				
POWDER	1050 fps	1100 fps	1150 fps	1200 fps	1250 fps
Red Dot	3.7 gr.	4.1 gr.			
WIN WSL	4.0 gr.	4.2 gr.	4.4 gr.		
Bullseye		4.5 gr.	4.8 gr.	5.1 gr.	
WIN 231	4.5 gr.	4.7 gr.	5.1 gr.	5.5 gr.	
Pearl Scot	4.6 gr.	4.8 gr.	5.0 gr.		
Unique	4.7 gr.	4.9 gr.	5.1 gr.		
AA #2	4.7 gr.	5.0 gr.	5.2 gr.	5.6 gr.	5.9 gr.
WIN WST	5.2 gr.	5.4 gr.	5.6 gr.		
AA #5	5.6 gr.	5.9 gr.	6.2 gr.	6.6 gr.	
HS-6	6.3 gr.	6.5 gr.	6.9 gr.		
AA #7	7.4 gr.	7.9 gr.	8.4 gr.		

Indicates maximum load - use with caution

124 GRAIN BULLETS:

SECTIONAL DENSITY:	.141
DIAMETER:	.355"

#3556 FMJ-FP
Ballistic Coefficient — .174
C.O.L. — 1.050"

#3557 FMJ-RN
Ballistic Coefficient — .145
C.O.L. — 1.150"

#3567 LRN
Ballistic Coefficient — .131
C.O.L. — 1.090"

	VELOCITY							
POWDER	1025 fps	1050 fps	1075 fps	1100 fps	1125 fps	1150 fps	1175 fps	1200 fps
Red Dot	3.8 gr.	4.0 gr.	4.2 gr.					
WIN WXL	3.9 gr.	4.0 gr.	4.2 gr.	4.3 gr.	4.4 gr.			
Bullseye	4.1 gr.	4.2 gr.	4.4 gr.					
Pearl Sod		4.4 gr.	4.6 gr.	4.7 gr.	4.9 gr.	5.0 gr.		
Unique	4.7 gr.	4.8 gr.	4.9 gr.	5.0 gr.	5.1 gr.			
WIN 231		4.7 gr.	4.8 gr.	5.1 gr.	5.3 gr.			
AA #2	4.7 gr.	4.8 gr.	5.0 gr.	5.1 gr.	5.3 gr.	5.4 gr.	5.6 gr.	5.7 gr.
WIN WST	4.8 gr.	5.0 gr.	5.2 gr.	5.4 gr.				
AA #5	5.3 gr.	5.5 gr.	5.7 gr.	5.9 gr.	6.1 gr.	6.2 gr.		
HS-6	6.2 gr.	6.3 gr.	6.5 gr.	6.6 gr.	6.8 gr.	6.9 gr.		
AA #7	7.2 gr.	7.5 gr.	7.7 gr.	8.0 gr.				

Indicates maximum load - use with caution

147 GRAIN BULLETS:

SECTIONAL DENSITY:	.187
DIAMETER:	.355"

#35580 HP/XTP
Ballistic Coefficient — .212
C.O.L. — 1.100"

#3559 FMJ-RN
Ballistic Coefficient — .212
C.O.L. — 1.169"

	VELOCITY					
POWDER	800 fps	850 fps	900 fps	950 fps	975 fps	1000 fps
SR 4756	3.2 gr.	3.4 gr.	3.6 gr.	3.8 gr.		
WIN WSF	3.3 gr.	3.6 gr.	3.9 gr.	4.2 gr.		
AA #6	3.8 gr.	4.1 gr.	4.3 gr.	4.6 gr.		
Solo 1500	3.8 gr.	4.1 gr.	4.3 gr.	4.6 gr.		
HS-6		4.4 gr.	4.7 gr.	4.9 gr.	5.1 gr.	
Blue Dot	4.2 gr.	4.5 gr.	4.8 gr.	5.2 gr.	5.3 gr.	5.6 gr.
HS-7	4.4 gr.	4.6 gr.	5.2 gr.	6.0 gr.		
AA #7	5.1 gr.	5.5 gr.	5.9 gr.	6.2 gr.	6.4 gr.	6.6 gr.

Indicates maximum load - use with caution

9mm Luger (Parabellum)

The 9mm Parabellum (other sobriquets include 9mm Luger, 9x19 and 9mm NATO) dates from the very early years of this century. Its original home was the Luger pistol, but countless other handguns and submachine guns have been built to chamber it over its long history. It has been, in all probability, the world's most popular handgun cartridge for many years, and it is certainly the most popular submachine gun cartridge. Much of the Parabellum's popularity stems from the fact that it is an excellent compromise. It combines mild recoil and ease of shooting with a reasonable degree of effectiveness on the business end. It is now U.S. military standard, and it is the choice of a great many police departments.

Perhaps because it was primarily the enemy's cartridge in both World Wars, some handgun critics started incensed an antipathy to the 9mm that verged on being downright irrational.

Charges leveled against the Nine have included that it was incapable of delivering decent accuracy and that as a defense cartridge it was a pathetic joke. In the past, there was probably some basis for both charges. The old 9mm ball ammo was not very effective (although very little worse than the highly touted .45 ACP hardball). Today's well-designed hollow point expanding bullets can give the 9mm stopping capabilities that put it on a par with many good .357 Magnum and .45 ACP loads. At the same time, carefully assembled handloads or good factory loads in this caliber can deliver match grade accuracy from the right guns.

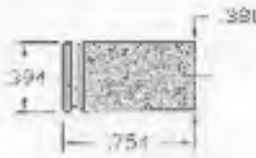
The Parabellum can be handloaded with excellent results if a few warnings are heeded. 9mm brass varies greatly in length and case wall thickness; mixed cartridge cases will seldom, if ever, produce good, consistent results. Case volume is very small. If a bullet is seated even a little too deep, pressures can run up fast. The Parabellum can deliver good performance with a wide range of powders—from Bullseye up to such relatively slow burners as Blue Dot or AA-No. 7. Best accuracy will be ordinarily achieved with bullets that have plenty of bearing surface relative to the ogive.

Like it or loathe it, the Parabellum will remain among the most popular and important cartridges of all time.

Jan is Editor of Petersen's Handguns.

9mm Luger (Parabellum)

Test Information



RIFLE:	Barrel:	Douglas
	Length:	4"
	Twist:	1:16"
CASE:		Winchester
PRIMER:		Fiocchi 1½

Comments from the lab

Like most pistol cartridges, the 9mm headspaces from the case mouth. When loading for this cartridge, bell the case mouth just enough to reliably guide the bullet into position and then taper crimp just enough to take the bell out of the case. Using this seating, the crimping technique will help ensure proper headspacing.

The S.A.A.M.I. overall cartridge lengths for this cartridge are 1.000" min. and 1.169" max. We suggest seating to lengths on the high end of this range, provided they will function well in your particular firearm.

This load data is not 45° rated and does not exceed the parameters for standard 9mm Luger pressures.

Nosler 90 Grain

90 gr.
Hollow Point

*Most Accurate Load Tested
**Compressed Load

Ballistic Coefficient .095
Sectional Density .150

Powder	Charge Weight in Grains		Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Load Density
BULLSEYE	Max.	5.1	1330 fps	58%
		4.9	1220 fps	53%
		4.4*	1110 fps	47%
UNIQUE (Most Accurate Powder Tested)	Max.	6.5*	1290 fps	70%
		6.0	1190 fps	65%
		5.5	1090 fps	59%
SR 4756	Max.	6.6*	1278 fps	73%
		6.3	1159 fps	66%
		5.8	1066 fps	61%
HS 6	Max.	8.0	1352 fps	86%
		7.5	1267 fps	81%
		7.0*	1182 fps	75%
AA-No. 5	Max.	7.3	1182 fps	78%
		6.8	1104 fps	73%
		6.3*	1002 fps	68%
BLUE DOT	Max.	8.7	1220 fps	94%
		8.2	1150 fps	89%
		7.7*	1080 fps	83%
AA-No. 7	Max.	8.7*	1102 fps	91%
		8.2	1037 fps	86%
		7.7	972 fps	80%

Use Maximum Loads with Caution

Nosler 115 Grain

115 gr. Full Metal Jacket

Ballistic Coefficient .103
Sectional Density .150

115 gr.
Hollow Point

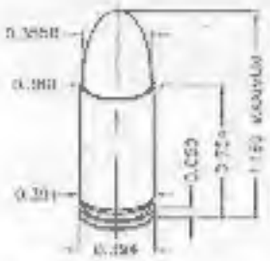
Ballistic Coefficient .110
Sectional Density .150

*Most Accurate Load Tested
**Compressed Load

Powder	Charge Weight in Grains		Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Load Density
WSL	Max.	4.6*	976 fps	53%
		4.0	865 fps	47%
		3.5	748 fps	41%
HP 38	Max.	5.2	1042 fps	61%
		4.7	937 fps	55%
		4.2*	832 fps	49%
UNIQUE	Max.	6.1	1120 fps	72%
		5.5	1000 fps	65%
		5.1*	1000 fps	60%
SR 4756 (Most Accurate Powder Tested)	Max.	6.5*	1176 fps	76%
		6.0	1089 fps	71%
		5.5	900 fps	66%
HS 6	Max.	7.1*	990 fps	81%
		6.6	880 fps	76%
		6.1	770 fps	72%
BLUE DOT	Max.	8.5	1130 fps	100%
		8.0	1000 fps	94%
		7.5*	1030 fps	88%
AA-No. 7	Max.	8.5*	998 fps	100%
		8.0	933 fps	94%
		7.5	866 fps	88%

Use Maximum Loads with Caution

9mm Luger



Test Specifications
Firearm Used: Colt Govt Model MKIV
Rifl. Length/Twist: 5"/1x16"

Test Components
Cases: Starline
Trim-to Length: .750"
Primers: CCI 500

Remarks:

Although it was introduced in 1902, the 9mm Luger was actually adopted by the German navy two years later. The cartridge was again adopted four years later, this time by the German army, where it has remained in service ever since. Through a strange turn of events, the 9mm Luger has gone on to become the most successful military pistol cartridge in the world. Early in the Second World War, Britain lost a tremendous amount of equipment at the disastrous battle of Dunkirk. Fearing an imminent Nazi invasion, they rushed to arm themselves with a variety of easily produced weapons, including submachineguns. Although the 9mm was never really considered for adoption by the British, they had captured huge amounts of 9mm Luger ammunition from the Italians during the campaign in Eritrea. As a result of this windfall, it was suggested that a newly designed submachinegun, the Lanchester, be chambered for the 9mm Luger. Later in the war, the British adopted the Browning High Power pistol, which was also chambered for the 9mm cartridge. After the war the 9mm became the standard NATO cartridge for handguns and submachineguns, because so many countries in the newly formed NATO forces were already using the 9mm. One of the last holdouts finally relented in 1985, when the 9mm was adopted by the U.S. military as our standard service pistol cartridge. Under its NATO designation, the cartridge is known as the 9x19mm. It is also frequently referred to as the 9mm Parabellum.

Here in the U.S., the 9mm was almost unheard of until the 1950's, when Smith & Wesson began developing a series of 9mm handguns for the police and military market. Domestic interest in the 9mm was only lukewarm until the late seventies and early eighties, when the old war horse really took off. Several factors account for this, including the military's adoption and a sudden appearance of several good quality high-capacity 9mm pistols. Today, the 9mm is one of the most popular cartridges among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Despite its police usage, it has never really caught on for combat competition among U.S. IPSC shooters. In all fairness, this is largely because of regulations which preclude this cartridge specifically. Variants such as the 9x21mm, and the similar .38 Super have dominated the sport for the last few years.

9mm Luger, continued

Reloading for 9mm is not difficult, but one should remember that it is a high pressure cartridge. Small changes in component combinations can result in significant pressure increases, and require careful development. Sierra offers a wide range of .355" bullets, adding to the 9mm's versatility. As with most other cartridges intended for use in autoloading pistols, we recommend a firm taper crimp. The 9mm is a good cartridge with a long and illustrious history, as well as a bright future ahead.

.355 90 gr. JHP
Cartridge OAL: 1.010"

Powder / Velocity →	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450
Bullseye			4.2	4.5	4.7	5.0
231		4.9	5.2	5.5	5.8	6.2
700X				4.7	5.1	5.5
PB			5.2	5.4	5.7	6.1
AA No.5	6.2	6.5	6.8	7.1	7.3	
Unique			5.5	6.2	6.8	7.5
WAP	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5		
Vit N340	5.8	6.2	6.5	6.8		
SR7625	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.8	6.2	
Herco				7.0	7.4	7.8
AA No.7	6.1	6.5	6.8	7.1		
Vit N350	5.4	5.7	6.1	6.5		
Blue Dot			6.0	6.7	8.4	10.0
Energy/ft.lbs.	*288*	*312*	*338*	*364*	*392*	*420*

Accuracy Load: 231/5.5 grs./1350 fps/364 ft.lbs.
Hunting Load: Blue Dot/10.0 grs./1450 fps/420 ft.lbs.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED

9mm Luger, continued

.355 95 gr. FMJ
Cartridge OAL: 1.020"

Powder ↓ / Velocity →	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400
Bullseye	4.5	4.8	5.2			
231	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.7	6.0	
Red Dot	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.1	
700X	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.8	
AA-No.5	6.1	6.5	6.8	6.6	7.1	7.4
Unique	5.4	5.8	6.1	6.4	6.7	7.0
WAP	5.7	6.0	6.3			
SR7625	4.8	5.1	5.4	5.7	6.0	
HS-6	6.7	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8
Herco		5.6	5.9	6.4	6.8	7.2
Vht 3N37	5.9	6.2	6.5	6.7		
AA-No.7	7.9	8.3	8.7	9.2		
Blue Dot	7.8	8.3	8.7	9.0	9.3	9.6
Vht N350	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3		
Energy/ft.lbs.	*379*	*404*	*430*	*456*	*484*	*513*

Accuracy Load: 231/5.7 grs.;1300 fps/356 ft.lbs
Hunting Load: Blue Dot/9.0 grs.;1400 fps/413 ft.lbs.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

9mm Luger, continued

.355 115 gr. JHP
Cartridge OAL: 1.015"

.355 115 gr. FMJ
Cartridge OAL: 1.090"

Powder ↓ / Velocity →	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300
Bullseye			3.9	4.3	4.7	4.9
231		4.6	4.9	5.2	5.5	
700X			4.0	4.3	4.7	5.1
PB		4.4	4.7	5.0	5.2	
AA-NO.5	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.7
Unique		5.0	5.2	5.6	6.0	6.4
WAP	4.9	5.3	5.7	6.0		
SR7625	4.4	4.7	5.0	5.2		
Herco			5.7	6.0	6.3	6.6
Vht 3N37	5.0	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.3	
AA-No.7			8.0	8.4	8.9	
Blue Dot		6.8	7.3	7.7	8.1	
Vht N350	4.6	5.2	5.6	5.9		
Energy/ft.lbs.	*287*	*309*	*338*	*361*	*399*	*431*

Accuracy Load: Unique/5.6 grs.;1200 fps/368 ft.lbs
Hunting Load: Herco/6.3 grs.;1250 fps/399 ft.lbs.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

9mm Luger, continued

355 125 gr FMJ
Cartridge: AA... 050'

Powder	Velocity	950	900	850	800	750	700
Bullseye		3.5	3	3	4.0	4.0	4.5
[illegible]		3.9	[illegible]	4.5	5.0	5.1	
Red Dot			3.7	4.0	4.[illegible]	4.8	
700X			3		4	4.3	4.4
AA No.[illegible]		4.0		5.5	5.6	[illegible]	6.3
Titegun			4	4.[illegible]	5.[illegible]	5.5	5.9
WAT		4.5	4.8	[illegible]	5.4	5.[illegible]	
[illegible]		5.4	6		6.3	6.6	
Titegun		4.5	4.8	4.[illegible]	5.4		
HP 38(H)		4	4.0	5	5.[illegible]	5.9	
AA No.7					7.4	8.3	8.7
Blue Dot		6.1	6.5	6.9	7.3	7.7	8.0
[illegible]		4.5	4.8	5	5.[illegible]	5.[illegible]	
Energy(ft lbs)		350	378	409	446	[illegible]	499

Accuracy Load: AA [illegible] gr [illegible] fps
Hunting Load: AA No. 9 gr 380 fps 1[illegible] ft lbs

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD USE CAUTION
CAUTION: [illegible] MINIMUM [illegible] FOR SAFETY. RECOMMENDED

9mm Luger, continued

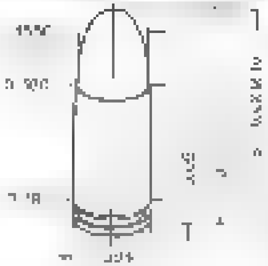
355 [illegible] gr FMJ
Cartridge: A... 2...

Powder	Velocity	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150
Bullseye			3.9	4	4.4		
[illegible]			4	4.4	4.9	5	5.4
[illegible]				4.9	4.[illegible]	4.E	
				[illegible]	4.[illegible]	4.4	4.7
AA [illegible]		5	[illegible]	5.5	[illegible]	5.8	[illegible]
[illegible]			4	4.6		[illegible]	6.6
[illegible]			4.9	[illegible]	6.6		6.9
[illegible]					4.[illegible]	4.8	
			5	[illegible]	6.[illegible]	6.5	6
[illegible]			4.6	4	5.2		
[illegible]				[illegible]		5	[illegible]
[illegible]		5.[illegible]	4.4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]		3.5	4		5.2		
[illegible]		[illegible]	3[illegible]	80	[illegible]	440	48[illegible]

Accuracy Load: [illegible] gr [illegible] fps [illegible] ft lbs
Hunting Load: AA No. [illegible] gr [illegible] fps [illegible] ft lbs

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD USE CAUTION
[illegible] MAXIMUM [illegible] RECOMMENDED

9mm Luger



Test Specifications
Firearm Used: Marlin Model 9
Bbl. Length/Twist: [illegible]

Test Components
Cases: Federal
Trim-to Length: [illegible]
Primers: Federal [illegible]

Remarks

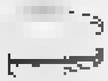
Introduced in 1902, the 9mm Luger is probably the oldest cartridge still in common use on a world wide scale. To say that the 9mm has been successful would be an understatement [illegible] proportions. Today, the cartridge is not only holding its own, but is actively gaining in popularity. [illegible] boost in 1985, when the U.S. military adopted the 9mm Luger as the new cartridge for service sidearms. In addition to its military duties, the 9mm has been embraced by many local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies as well. Ever since the days of the wild west, the idea of a rifle/handgun combination in the same caliber has always been a concept unique to America. This notion has given [illegible] cartridges normally associated with handguns. The 9mm Luger is one of them.

Many of the rifles chambered for the 9mm are carbine-length, semi-automatic copies of submachineguns, such as the Uzi carbine, and the H&K 94, a variant of the MP5. Our test rifle was the Marlin Model 9 Camp Carbine, an original design. Despite the differences in their appearance, all of these rifles are basically suited to the same range of tasks: small game, varmints, and plinking. Ken Hackathorn, a highly respected gunwriter and defensive shooting instructor, has recommended the Camp Carbine as a viable candidate for home defense. For shooters unable to master the heavier recoil of a shotgun, or unable to obtain a handgun due to local ordinances, this is a feasible option.

While the 9mm may qualify as a fairly powerful pistol cartridge, it is rather anemic in a rifle. Whether used in a rifle or handgun, the 9mm is neither adequate nor suitable for use on big game. When loaded with the lighter weight bullets, which showed the greatest increase in velocity over handgun data, the 9mm is effective for small game and varmints out to 50 or 75 yards. When used within its limitations, the 9mm Luger in a rifle can be an enjoyable combination.

9mm Luger, continued

.355 90 gr. JHP
Cartridge OAL 1.010"



Powder / Velocity →	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700
[illegible]	4	5	5.8		
[illegible]			4	6.0	0
[illegible]	[illegible]	6.7	9.4		
[illegible]		7	7.9	8.7	9.2
Energy/Ft. lbs.	338	392	450	512	544

Accuracy Load: [illegible]
Hunting Load: [illegible]

.355 95 gr. FMJ
Cartridge OAL [illegible]

Powder / Velocity →	1300	1400	1500	1600
[illegible]	5.0	5.5	6.0	
[illegible]			6.5	7.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]			8.0	8.6
Energy/Ft. lbs.	356	413	475	540

Accuracy Load: [illegible]
Hunting Load: [illegible]

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE CAUTION
[illegible] CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED

(RIFLE DATA)

9mm Luger, continued

.355 115 gr. JHP
Cartridge OAL: 1.015"

.355 115 gr. FMJ
Cartridge OAL: 1.090"

Powder ↓ / Velocity →	1100	1200	1300	1350	1404
Unique	4.9	4.7	5.2	5.4	
Herco		5.0	5.6	6.8	6.1
AA-No.7	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.2	
Blue Dot	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.4
Energy/ft.lbs.	*309*	*368*	*431*	*465*	*500*

Accuracy Load: Blue Dot/7.2 grs.; 1350 fps/465 ft.lbs.
Hunting Load: Blue Dot/7.4 grs.; 1400 fps/500 ft.lbs.

.355 125 gr. FMJ
Cartridge OAL: 1.090"

Powder ↓ / Velocity →	1100	1150	1200	1250	1310
Unique	4.4	4.7	5.0	5.3	
Herco	4.7	5.0	5.3		
AA-No.7	6.7	7.1	7.5	7.9	
Blue Dot	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	7.0
Energy/ft.lbs.	*336*	*367*	*400*	*434*	*469*

Accuracy Load: Blue Dot/6.7 grs.; 1250 fps/434 ft.lbs.
Hunting Load: Blue Dot/7.0 grs.; 1300 fps/469 ft.lbs.

.355 130 gr. FMJ
Cartridge OAL: 1.120"

Powder ↓ / Velocity →	1050	1100	1150	1210
Unique	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.1
Herco	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.4
AA-No.7	6.8	7.1	7.4	7.7
Blue Dot	5.9	6.2	6.5	6.8
Energy/ft.lbs.	*318*	*349*	*382*	*416*

Accuracy Load: AA-No.7/7.7 grs.; 1500 fps/916 ft.lbs.
Hunting Load: AA-No.7/7.7 grs.; 1200 fps/416 ft.lbs.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

(RIFLE DATA)

The 9mm Luger cartridge is known by several names including 9mm Parabellum and 9x19mm. Some pistols chambered for this cartridge are marked "9mm/08" or "9mm 2/06" to indicate the date (1908) when it was adopted by the German Army. Except for war souvenirs, there were few 9mm pistols in the U.S. until the 1950's.

The U.S. military considered the 9mm as a service cartridge on numerous occasions and finally adopted it in 1985 in the M-9 Beretta pistol. The compact pistols and the high magazine capacity found in many models have contributed to make the 9mm Luger the most popular cartridge in the U.S. law enforcement community.

The 9mm was originally loaded with full metal jacketed bullets for reliable feeding. However, to succeed as a police service cartridge, it was necessary to use expanding bullets to limit the tremendous penetration of the FMJ 9mm bullets. The current trend in law enforcement is toward 124 and 147 grain JHP bullets.

Speer offers a number of bullets which are suitable for the 9mm. For general purpose shooting and target practice, the 115 TMJ and 124 grain Uni-Cor soft point bullets are a good choice. The 115, 124 and 147 grain Gold Dot hollow points should be chosen for serious defense work.

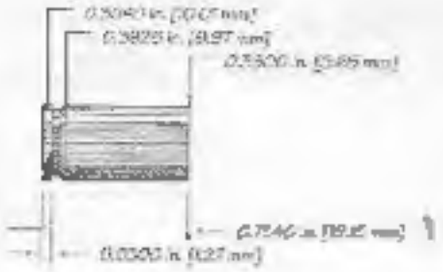
When loading the 9mm, carefully observe the cartridge overall lengths listed in the data. UNDER NO CONDITIONS SHOULD THE BULLETS BE LOADED SHORTER THAN THE LISTED LENGTHS. 9mm case capacity is relatively small and seating a bullet deeper than indicated can cause excessive pressures and the potential for damage or injury.

Loads listed for the Speer 125 grain lead bullet generally do not operate at maximum pressure. We have limited the velocity to around 1000 feet/sec to reduce barrel leading. A good rule of thumb with swaged lead bullets is to use the lightest load which will cycle the action reliably.

The 9mm Luger headspaces on the case mouth so roll crimping is not recommended. A good taper crimp will give sufficient holding power as long as the expander ball is no larger than .354". The taper crimp also gives a nicely finished edge to the case mouth for reliable feeding. Refer to the section, "Loading for Semi-automatic Pistols" in the introduction to the handgun data. There you will find an extended discussion on reloading the 9mm Luger that contains some helpful tips.

The listed loads do not exceed the industry maximum pressure of 35,000 psi.

9mm Luger - Speer Bullets



Max. Case Length: 0.754"
Trim-to Length: 0.744"
Max. Cart. Length: 1.166"
RCBS Shellholder: #10
Barrel Length: 4"
Twist: 1-10"

Test Firearm: Smith & Wesson Model 5906
Case: Speer
Primers: CCI 500

.355" Dia. 115 Grain

Bullet Density .180

	9mm GD-HP	9mm TMJ	9mm JHP			
Ballistic Coefficient	0.125	0.177	0.116			
C.O.L. Tested At	1.125"	1.135"	1.125"			
Speer Part No.	3994	3995	3996			

Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.
Blue Dot	8.5	1258	Vihtavuori N350	6.5	1210	231	5.0	1133
	7.7	1161		5.8	1109		4.5	1026
Unique	6.3	1244	HS-6	7.5	1178	Tite-Group	4.5	1121
	5.6	1156		6.7	1049		4.1	1061
Vihtavuori 3N37	6.8	1225	Hodgdon Universal	5.3	1172	AA #5	6.8	1192
	6.1	1128		4.7	1046		6.1	1033
AA #7	9.6	1220	WSF	5.8	1156	American Select	5.4	1182
	8.8	1158		5.0	1041		4.8	1057
Power Pistol	6.7	1212	Bullseye	4.7	1144	700-X	4.4	1101
	6.2	1122		4.2	1037		4.0	1007

Notes: Red print denotes maximum loads. They should be used with caution. C – Compression Load

.355" Dia. 124 Grain

Bullet Density .141

	9mm SP	9mm GD-HP				
Ballistic Coefficient	0.115	0.134				
C.O.L. Tested At	1.120"	1.120"				
Speer Part No.	3997	3998				

Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.
HS-7	8.9	1249	Vihtavuori 3N37	6.4	1179	700-X	4.3	1067
	8.0	1158		5.7	1083		3.9	980
Blue Dot	7.9	1238	Hodgdon Power Pistol	6.4	1157	Bullseye	4.4	1059
	7.1	1121		5.6	1033		3.9	966
AA #9	10.5C	1185	Tite-Group	4.4	1095	HS-6	6.7	1059
	9.4	1061		4.0	1020		6.0	951
Unique	6.8	1180	Hodgdon H. Universal	6.0	1089	American Select	5.0	1053
	5.2	1060		4.6	993		4.5	994
AA #7	9.0	1180	AA #5	6.5	1069	231	4.6	DNR
	8.1	1077		5.8	965		4.0	887

.355" Dia. 147 Grain

Bullet Density .67

	9mm GD-HP	9mm TMJ				
Ballistic Coefficient	0.154	0.205				
C.O.L. Tested At	1.130"	1.130"				
Speer Part No.	4002	4005				

Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mzl Vel.
Blue Dot	5.8	1001	SR 4756	4.6	957	WSF	4.1	931
	5.1	900		4.2	841		3.6	840
Power Pistol	5.0	975	HS-6	5.6	956	AA #5	5.1	931
	4.5	872		5.0	845		4.5	821
Vihtavuori 3N37	4.9	969	Unique	4.3	954	Tite-Group	3.3	864
	4.4	866		3.8	852		DNR	—
AA #7	6.6	961	HS-7	6.3	953			
	6.1	867		6.1	866			

Notes: Red print denotes maximum loads. They should be used with caution. C – Compressed Load
DNR – Do not reduce

9mm Luger - Speer Bullets

.356" Dia. 125 Grain Spec. Density .142	9mm L-RN					
Ballistic Coefficient	0.150					
C.O.L. Tested At:	1.130"					
Speer Cat. No.	4601					

Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mz. Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mz. Vel.	Powder	Wt. Grs.	Mz. Vel.
	4.6	1012		4.2	995		4.1	982
WAP	4.2	921	HP-38	3.9	917	231	3.6	911
	4.5	1007		5.5	993		3.4	977
Unique	4.1	911	HS-6	5.1	913	700-X	3.2	920
	3.8	1004		4.3	991		3.8	992
Red Dot	3.3	885	H. Universal	3.9	899	Bullseye	3.5	929

Notes: Bold print denotes maximum loads. They should be used with caution.

LAB NOTES...

Because of the wide variation in locking mechanisms and spring rates in 9mm pistols, some may exhibit sluggish function with the slower of the 147 grain loads. Load a few rear rounds and try them for function before settling on a 147 grain load.

Military Cases

9mm Luger cases were once hard to find, but are now as abundant as flies in most areas. There is little need to use military surplus cases when there are so many good commercial cases available at a reasonable price.

In addition to requiring the extra effort of removing a primer crimp, some military case have primer pockets that are slightly different from those in commercial cases. This can cause reloading difficulties, especially on progressive equipment. Powder capacities may not be the same either, and pressure variations can show up.

Our recommendation — don't bother with military 9mm brass.